

# The Church Gathered

June 26, 2022

11:00 a.m.

*The LORD is good, a refuge in times of trouble.  
He cares for those who trust in him. – Nahum 1:7*

Prelude

*Sweet Hour of Prayer*  
Arr. Nancy Muskrat

Nancy Muskrat

Welcome to Worshippers

Michael Mills

*LORD, we believe your grace responds where faith and doubt unite to care; we cannot measure how you heal or answer every sufferer's prayer.*

Call to Worship

Revelation 7:9-11

*Pastor: I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. . . . And they cried out in a loud voice:*

**Congregation: "Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb."**

*Pastor: All the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures.*

**Congregation: They fell down on their faces before the throne and worshiped God.**

Hymn of Adoration

*Ye Servants of God*

LYONS

**Ye servants of God, your Master proclaim,  
and publish abroad His wonderful name;  
the name all victorious of Jesus extol;  
His kingdom is glorious and rules over all.**

**God ruleth on high, almighty to save,  
and still He is nigh, His presence we have;  
the great congregation His triumph shall sing,  
ascribing salvation to Jesus, our King.**

**"Salvation to God, who sits on the throne!"  
Let all cry aloud and honor the Son;  
the praises of Jesus the angels proclaim,  
fall down on their faces and worship the Lamb.**

**Then let us adore and give Him His right,  
all glory and power, all wisdom and might;  
all honor and blessing with angels above,  
and thanks never ceasing and infinite love.**

Words by Charles Wesley, 1744

*The pain that will not go away, the guilt that clings from things long past, the fear of what the future holds, are present as if meant to last.*

Responsive Reading

Psalm 16:7-8

*Leader: I will praise the LORD, who counsels me; even at night my heart instructs me.*

**Congregation: I keep my eyes always on the LORD. With him at my right hand, I will not be shaken.**

Hymn of Prayer 71

*Be Thou My Vision*

SLANE

Pastoral Prayer

Michael Mills

Hymn of Stewardship 488

*Come, All Christians, Be Committed*

BEACH SPRING

Offertory Prayer

C. L. Bass

Instrumental Offertory

*Great Is Thy Faithfulness*  
Arr. Stephen Nielson and Ovid Young

Bruce and Nancy Muskrat

*But present, too, is love which tends the hurt we never hoped to find, the private agonies inside, the memories that haunt the mind.*

Reading of God's Word

Acts 6:8-15; 7:54-8:1a

Lynn AbuMari Smith

*Now Stephen, a man full of God's grace and power, performed great wonders and signs among the people. Opposition arose, however, from members of the Synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called)—Jews of Cyrene and Alexandria as well as the provinces of Cilicia and Asia—who began to argue with Stephen. But they could not stand up against the wisdom the Spirit gave him as he spoke.*

*Then they secretly persuaded some men to say, "We have heard Stephen speak blasphemous words against Moses and against God."*

*So they stirred up the people and the elders and the teachers of the law. They seized Stephen and brought him before the Sanhedrin. They produced false witnesses, who testified, "This fellow never stops speaking against this holy place and against the law. For we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place and change the customs Moses handed down to us."*

*All who were sitting in the Sanhedrin looked intently at Stephen, and they saw that his face was like the face of an angel.*

*When the members of the Sanhedrin heard this, they were furious and gnashed their teeth at him. But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. "Look," he said, "I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God."*

*At this they covered their ears and, yelling at the top of their voices, they all rushed at him, dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. Meanwhile, the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul.*

*While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, "LORD Jesus, receive my spirit." Then he fell on his knees and cried out, "LORD, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he fell asleep.*

*And Saul approved of their killing him.*

Hymn of Testimony 594

*Before the Throne of God Above*

BEFORE THE THRONE

Message

*Full of the Holy Spirit*

Michael Mills

Acts 6:8-15; 7:54-8:1a

*LORD, let your Spirit meet us here to mend the body, mind, and soul, to disentangle peace from pain, and make your broken people whole.*

Hymn of Assurance

*Be Still, My Soul*

FINLANDIA

**Be still, my soul: your God will undertake  
to guide the future surely as the past.  
Your hope, your confidence let nothing shake;  
all now mysterious shall be bright at last.  
Be still, my soul: life's tempests still obey  
the voice that once the waves' wild fury strayed.**

**Be still, my soul: the hour is hastening on  
when we shall be forever in God's peace;  
When disappointment, grief, and fear are gone,  
love's joys restored, our strivings shall cease.  
Be still, my soul: when change and tears are past,  
all safe and blessed we shall meet at last.**

Words by Katharina von Schlegel, 1752; tr. Jane Borthwick, 1855, alt.

Opportunities for Service

Michael Mills

Benediction

Postlude

C. L. Bass

Deacon of the Week – C. L. Bass

# The Church Scattered

## ***Luncheon and Church Business Conference***

Following this morning's worship service, church members will meet in Faith Hall for a light luncheon and the bi-monthly church business conference.

## ***C. L. Bass Tribute Concert***

This coming Saturday evening, our beloved C. L. Bass will be honored for his lifetime of ministry as a church musician and composer in a concert to be presented at the Washington National Cathedral in our nation's capital. Several members of our congregation will be participating in the large mass choir and orchestra that will be performing nine of C.L.'s most popular choral compositions. The program will be live-streamed at 6 pm Central Daylight Time. The streaming link is as follows: <https://youtu.be/4bdH7tf1vpQ>

## ***Wednesday Prayer Meeting***

Join us in the back the Worship Center at 5:45 pm.

## ***Choir Rehearsals – Summer Recess***

The Choir will take a summer recess from Wednesday evening rehearsals through August. Our singers will be on the platform each Sunday, however, as they assist in leading the congregational singing. Anyone who would like to join in on Sundays are welcome – simply come to the choir room before 10:50.

## ***Online Giving***

You can easily make an online contribution at any time to Agape Baptist Church through "EasyTithe." Simply click on the indicated link on the church's webpage, or access it directly with your smart phone or tablet through the following printed QR code:

